Introduction

Chapter 13 of the *Getting Started Guide* (entitled *Getting Started with Macros*) is an introduction to the macro facilities that are available in LibreOffice. The current chapter provides further introductory information about the use of macros within a Calc spreadsheet.

A macro is a set of commands or keystrokes that are stored for later use. An example of a simple macro is one that enters your address into the current cell of an open spreadsheet. You can use macros to automate both simple and complex tasks, and they enable you to introduce new features that are not built into Calc.

The simplest way to create a macro is to record a series of actions through Calc's user interface. Calc saves recorded macros using the open source LibreOffice Basic scripting language, which is a dialect of the well-known BASIC programming language. Such macros can be edited and enhanced after recording using the built-in LibreOffice Basic Integrated Development Environment (IDE).

The most powerful macros in Calc are created by writing code using one of the four supported scripting languages (LibreOffice Basic, BeanShell, JavaScript, and Python). This chapter provides an overview of Calc's macro facilities, mostly focused on its default macro scripting language, LibreOffice Basic. Some examples are included for the BeanShell, JavaScript, and Python scripting languages but fuller descriptions of the facilities for these languages are beyond the scope of this document.

On Visual Basic for Application (VBA) compatibility

LibreOffice Basic programming language and VBA programming language – found in many Microsoft Office documents including Excel spreadsheets – are dialects of the Basic language. If you want to use macros written in Microsoft Excel using the VBA macro code in LibreOffice, you must first edit the code in the LibreOffice Basic IDE editor.

Some elements for the conversion of Excel macros written in VBA are detailed at the end of this chapter.

Using the macro recorder

Chapter 13 of the *Getting Started Guide* includes examples showing how to use the macro recorder and understand the generated LibreOffice Basic scripts. The following steps give a further example, specific to a Calc spreadsheet, without the more detailed explanations of the *Getting Started Guide*. A macro is created and saved which performs a paste special with multiply operation across a range of spreadsheet cells.

> ✅ **Note**
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> Use **Tools > Options > LibreOffice > Advanced** on the Menu bar and select the **Enable macro recording (may be limited)** option to enable the macro recorder.

1) Use **File > New > Spreadsheet** on the Menu bar to create a new spreadsheet.
2) Enter the numbers shown in Figure 425 into cells A1:C3 of *Sheet1* in the new spreadsheet.